

COLORADO METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE

Meeting August 5, 2011

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Colorado Municipal League
1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO**

FINAL

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Chair – Attorney General John Suthers

Vice –Chairs:

- *Treatment* – Charlie Smith, Director, Division of Behavioral Health, CDHS
- *Prevention* – José Esquibel, Director, Interagency Prevention Systems, CDPHE
- *Law Enforcement* – Lori Moriarty, Retired Commander, Thornton Police, Department, North Metro Drug Task Force

Attendees: José Esquibel; Lori Moriarty; Jade Woodward; Chele Clark; Dan Kaup; Rachel Allen; Shane Bahr; Debra Campeau; Melissa Gallardo; Val Kalnins; Janelle Krueger; Mike Root; Janet Rowland; Jeanne Smith; Ken Summers; Jade Woodard; Brenidy Rice; Kathryn Wells; and Liz Hickman

Guests: Kristen Dixon; Tom Gorman; Chris Thurstone; Christine Tatum; Lew Turner; Nicola Erb; Felice Lucero; Beverly Gmerek; Helen Kaupang

Introductions:

Co-Chair Esquibel called the meeting to order on August 5, 2011.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes of February 4, 2011, were approved by motion and acclamation. Minutes will stand as corrected.

Announcements from Task Force Members:

Beverly Gmerek – “Prescription Drug Abuse in Colorado: A Prevention Policy Summit” is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 9th or 10th, 2011. The summit will be held at the Anschutz Medical Campus School of Pharmacy. The event is expected to draw 100 participants. David Mineta, Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy has been invited to be the keynote speaker. There will be a panel discussion on “How Will Colorado Respond?” More information is forthcoming.

Jeanne Smith –The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice has a task force working on suggestions for sentence reform in general and on drug cases in particular. Those suggestions will be reviewed by the Commission as a whole and may result in legislative proposals.

Three of the funding streams relating to drug treatment for offenders are being reviewed to see if they can be combined under a single governance structure. The three funds are the drug offender surcharge administered by the IAC (Interagency Council on Adult and Juvenile Correctional Treatment), the drug court funds created by SB 318, and the treatment funds under HB 10-1352.

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Melissa Gallardo – To date, over 300 parole officers have had the 90-minute training in Drug Endangered Children. Funding for future training is unknown; there are a couple of codes on the books to capture some data on drug endangered children. The numbers of drug endangered children encounter through parole services have gone up greatly. Child Welfare is getting involved sooner. When officers are seeing the kids in the home they are taken more care of what to do with them.

Co-Chair Esquibel – There are a number of prevention coalitions across the state, but they have never really been linked together as a whole. There is now a group bringing the coalitions together and is known as the Colorado Prevention Connection (CPC). The mission of the CPC is to improve the quality and sustainability of prevention coalitions through advocacy efforts, technical assistance and developing pathways to resources. CPC has established seven goals including influencing prevention policy, mentoring new coalitions, developing a website and a best practice coalition model, securing a coordinator, hosting a prevention coalition conference and conducting a statewide prevention coalition needs assessment.

Jade Woodard – The Third Annual Drug Endangered Children Conference will be held in Colorado Springs October 17-18, 2011. There are a few scholarships available. Please contact Jade for more information on these scholarships. This is a joint meeting in alliance with the El Paso County DEC.

Chief Mike Root – I am working with members of the AG's staff, the public defender's office, ACLU, defense bar, CCASA, and other interested groups to discuss sexting and internet porn among youth. Taking pictures and sending them to minors is a felony offense. Currently a group is looking at the law and redoing it as it relates to youth. Currently this is a felony but some officers are having difficulty charging a minor with this type of offense. The group is also looking at the educational components and other related concerns surrounding this issue. I am working with the 18th judicial district on educational programs and they are in the initial stages at this time.

Co-Chair Moriarty – The 2011 National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference will be on September 14-16, 2011 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center on the Potomac National Harbor, MD. You can register by going to the National DEC Website. The theme this year is "Putting the Pieces Together for Children and Families: The National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare, and the Courts." We are trying to get partners from various disciplines to the table this year. This year the conference is held in partnership with Children and Family Futures.

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Updates on State Legislation:

- The bill regarding the ban on the sale of Spice passed. Spice is now a Schedule 1 drug in Colorado.
- The schools are looking close at zero tolerance policies. With zero tolerance, students are being expelled from school, which is detrimental to their academic progress. Also, once expelled there is generally no follow-up. This is a huge issue, children are potentially being endangered, and schools do not get involved after students are expelled. Also, does child welfare get notified when a student is expelled due to home substance exposure? Local school policy is really going to guide this, and it will vary across the states.
- The proposed legislation for driving under the influence of drugs, mainly focused on marijuana intoxication, did not pass, but it will likely be reintroduced during the next legislative session.
- The law to make pseudoephedrine a prescribed drug in Colorado did not pass. It will probably be back around. Two states have passed a bill making pseudoephedrine available only with a prescription.

Substance Exposed Newborns Subcommittee:

Recommendations to State Meth Task Force

Kathryn Wells, Md., Denver Health

Jade Woodward, Executive Director, Colorado DEC

The SEN paper presented at the last meeting is now in final draft form and almost ready to be sent. We do have a PowerPoint presentation that can be sent out and a process to get feedback from each group that reviews the paper. We want to get back feedback on the recommendations. The time line is to receive feedback by November 1st and have a final draft by December 1st. We will send out letters to the agencies by January 2012. We also plan to vet this nationally. A Webinar can be conducted on the recommendations and the recommendations can post them on the Colorado DEC Website. We really want feedback to this document. Jade will provide questions for the reviewers to answer and send back in.

The next related issue is moving forward on the proposed legislation. The intent is that if a woman, who is pregnant, reveals through conversations to the doctor about her drug abuse, it can not be held against her. A sponsor is needed for the next session.

We are encouraging the hospitals to do the testing to identifying these women and get them help instead of throwing them in the hospital or jail. We are not aware of any other state that has this type of language. This really is a bold statement and will move Colorado forward to show other states.

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SBIRT (screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment) in primary care settings is meeting with success and we can connect the recommendations to SBIRT as a "next steps" for addressing the screening of pregnant women.

Comment:

- It was suggested that there be some partnering with child welfare. They have a great database in their system; they also might have some legislation to draw on. It would be worthwhile to present the proposed legislation to the County Human Service Directors.
- The SEN Committee is working with the State Division of Child Welfare to see if the TRAILS data system is able to pull data on the number of newborns born to addicted mothers.

National Pharmaceutical Drug Take Back Follow-up

Helen Kaupang, Diversion Group Supervisor

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Denver Field Office

October 29, 2011 is the next Pharmaceutical Drug Take Back Event and we are reaching out to the partners again. Attorney General Suthers sent out a letter to law enforcement agencies encouraging their participation. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is on board as a partner, as well as Peer Assistance Services, which manages a contract for preventing prescription drug abuse. We have not heard back yet from State Patrol. State Patrol was a great help in the rural areas. The main thrust is to keep everyone across the states on the same page. Nationally they wanted us to reach out to the long term care facilities, Native American populations, and to Federal and State agencies to do this work. We are going to get more posters to distribute to our partners and would like to send this out to everyone. Please send it out to people in your network email lists.

One outcome from this work is the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention week, October 3rd – 7th.

The growth and connections of the National Take Drug Take Back initiative has been amazing.

There is the possibility of having a Take Back site at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), with Dr. Chris Urbina's blessing, Greg Fabisiak of CDPHE is working in this.

Finally, assistance is being asked of State Meth Task Force members to get the information out to the people within their network. There will be a press conference media event to kick this off officially.

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Colorado Substance Use Data Trends

Kristen Dixon, Evaluation Researcher, CO Dept of Human Service, Div of Behavioral Health

Denver is above the national rate for cocaine use and meth use.

Marijuana use is more common for people under 25 years of age.

Marijuana and meth are the drugs of use most often reported by individuals under age 25 who enter treatment facilities. Court orders for drug treatment drive a lot of this numbers. The average age of first time users is 23, with drug use beginning by age 14 for many. If you put this data together it shows that a person is using drugs for 10 years prior to coming to treatment.

In adolescent treatment settings, 80% of youth report getting the marijuana from those who have a medical marijuana cards.

Current data from people in treatment indicates a high percentage of meth users are white females and the meth is smoked, injected and/or inhaled.

The data indicates a mixed picture. Meth is not going away. Heroin is starting to show a decline. There are number of growing young professional that are using and higher percentages are females.

Prescription drug abuse has been slowing increasing since 2006 among females and males users.

There is an increase in inhaling drugs versus injecting.

Narcotic analgesics such as MDMA has been low in the past, but data for 2009-2010 shows an increase mostly younger people

Comments:

- Marijuana data is pretty disturbing and it is discouraging to see that we have not made that much of a dent.
- There is a decline in the younger use of users of meth
- The data indicates people are using meth later (in their early twenties), but are they getting treatment sooner?
- It's good to see that meth users are entering treatment.
- Look at the referral source on this data.
- People who are addicted to drugs will change habits based on cost and the

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availability.

- Along those same lines it would be good to run the data on criminal court records to see what is helping.
- It's good that the State Meth Task Force is keeping a finger on the heartbeat of the emerging drug issues and then having data to substantiate areas for concentrated action.

Rural Law Enforcement Meth Initiative

Nicola Erb, RLEMI Coordinator

- This project has been extended until November 1st. We continue to look for funding and support to continue the work. The rural areas are hungry for the services we can provide.
- Bottom line is there are still meth issues in our rural areas. Nicola has been the face to get the message out there and she has already been able to make a difference in the rural areas.
- If we can come up with \$70,000 it will keep this work going, please keep this group in mind if you have any funds available
- Updates:
 - We have added the 15th Judicial District to the trainings
 - We have held Circle of Parents Training
 - Leadership Trainings
 - DEC-SYS Training Kick Off
 - More Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Trainings
 - Completed Narcotics Training
 - Sponsoring a 2-Day Meth Summit Sept 29 – 30 for Law Enforcement Officers
 - We have trained over 700 students to-date
 - Presented at National Conference of the National Alliance for DEC
- Upcoming Events: Aug-Sept-Oct
 - DEC-SYS
 - Circle of Parents & Recovery Coach Workshops
 - 15th Judicial District work
 - Data Base Formulation – with rural connections
 - Continue Coaching and Resourcing
 - Newsletters – methpedia.org and Rural Meth De-Brief
- Considering a name change from Rural Law Enforcement Meth Initiative to the Rural Institute for Substance Abuse and Families – exploring future work and structure

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What's the Big Deal? Youth and Marijuana Use

Janelle Kruger:

Christian Thurstone, MD

Janelle Krueger from the Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) disseminated black and white and full color versions of a fact sheet and a 4-page brochure titled "What's the Big Deal: How Marijuana Harms Youth" that a contractor produced for CDE. A slide show presentation should also soon be available. Task force members will be informed when the items will be available at CDE's website

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/pi_safedrugfree.htm) . All are encouraged to help make use of these items by disseminating them through their own networks, at conferences, displays, etc.

Next Meeting:

December 4, 2011

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